

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES



OFFICE OF FISHERIES

INLAND FISH SECTION

PART VI-A

WATERBODY MANAGEMENT PLAN SERIES

MILL CREEK RESERVOIR

LAKE HISTORY & MANAGEMENT ISSUES

CHRONOLOGY

DOCUMENT SCHEDULED TO BE UPDATED EVERY THREE YEARS

August 2014—Prepared By:

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LAKE HISTORY

GENERAL INFORMATION

Parish / Location:

Mill Creek Reservoir is located in Bienville Parish near the town of Saline, LA.

Date Lake Formed:

Mill Creek Reservoir was impounded in 1971.

Impoundment:

Mill Creek Reservoir was created by the construction of an earthen dam across Mill Creek in 1971. The dam is 1,540 feet long and has a top elevation of 215 MSL.

Size (surface area):

The surface area of Mill Creek Reservoir is approximately 560 acres at normal pool stage. Normal water level fluctuations do not greatly alter the surface acreage due to shoreline contour.

Watershed:

There are 13 square miles of area (6,032 acres) that drain into Mill Creek Reservoir. The ratio of watershed to lake surface area is 10.77: 1.

Pool Stage:

Normal pool stage for Mill Creek Reservoir is 200 MSL which is set at the spillway crest. Seasonal water level fluctuations typically range from approximately 199 MSL to 201 MSL.

Spillway Width:

The spillway is constructed from two 8 feet by 9 feet reinforced concrete box culverts that create a weir 50 feet in length set at a crest elevation of 200 MSL (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Concrete spillway at Mill Creek Reservoir, LA.

Drawdown (outlet) Structure Description:

The control structure has one gate which facilitates drawdowns through a 48 inch diameter outflow conduit. Maximum outflow rate is 4,680 cubic feet per second. The structure is designed so the lake can be completely dewatered.

Who Controls:

The Mill Creek Recreation and Water Conservation District Commission (MCRWDC) is responsible for the preservation, promotion, and development of the wealth and natural resources of the district by the conservation of the soil and water of Mill Creek for agricultural, recreational, commercial, and sanitary purposes and by the regulation of aquatic plant growth. In addition to the above responsibilities, the MCRWDC and/or the Bienville Parish Police Jury are responsible for the operation and maintenance of the dam and control structure on Mill Creek Reservoir. In recent years, actions by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LDOTD) have been limited to inspections. In accordance with RS38:3087.57B, LDOTD is required to provide advice or assistance to MCRWDC on request.

Drawdown requests for lake management require approval from the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) and approval from the Secretary of LDOTD. LDWF recommendations that include a drawdown are presented to the MCRWDC prior to implementation.

LAKE AUTHORITY

Association:

Mill Creek Recreation and Water Conservation District Commission. (MCRWDC)

Authorization:

Created in 1995 by R.S. 38:3087.51 through 38:3087.67 as a political subdivision of the state of Louisiana. See **APPENDIX I**.

Board of Commissioners – Mill Creek Recreation and Water Conservation District
Members of the Mill Creek Recreation and Water Conservation District Board of Commissioners are appointed by the Bienville Parish Police Jury.

Mill Creek Recreation and Water Conservation District Commissioners

Name	Address	Term Expires
Ann Garlington (President)	800 Sand Springs Rd. Saline, LA 71070	12/31/17
Janice Norred (Secretary)	179 Mauthe Rd Castor, LA 71016	12/31/15
Marian Morgan	240 Henry Mauthe Rd. Castor, LA 71016	12/31/15
Rowina Matthews	178 Mill Creek Rd. Saline, LA 71070	12/31/17
Gene Frulla		12/31/15

Rodney Warren – Secretary of the Bienville Parish Police Jury. 318-263-2019

ACCESS

Boat Ramps

There is a public boat launch located near the dam on Mill Creek Reservoir (Table 1). User fees are collected by the Mill Creek Recreation and Water Conservation District Commission. There is a mooring pier adjacent to the ramp. There are no commercial marinas located on the lake.

Table 1. – Location and description of boat ramp on Mill Creek Reservoir, Louisiana.

Ramp	Coordinates NAD 83	Ramp	Parking
Mill Creek Dam Park Ramp (Public – pay to launch, \$2.00)	N 32.17173 W -92.99272	Concrete	Blacktop – 50 Trailers

See **APPENDIX II** - “Mill Creek Reservoir Boat Ramp and Park Areas” for a mapped location of the boat ramp.

Piers:

There is a boat mooring pier adjacent to the boat ramp that may be used for fishing access at the Mill Creek Dam Park. Two small piers are located at the Watergate Park and are open to the public.



Figure 2. Pier adjacent to the boat ramp on Mill Creek Reservoir, LA.

State / Federal Facilities:

There are no state or federal facilities located on the lake.

Parish Facilities:

The MCRWCDC operates three park areas on the lake on lands owned by the Bienville Parish Police Jury: Dam Park, Point Park and Water Gate Park. Locations

of the parks are shown on the map in Appendix II. User fees are collected to operate and maintain the parks.

The boat launch area at the Dam Park has a concrete boat ramp, an adjacent mooring pier, primitive camp sites, ample parking, and night lights. There are no restrooms at this park area. Fees include \$2 boat launch, \$10 camping, and \$5 per vehicle for day use.

Point Park has restrooms, picnic facilities, volley ball court, a swimming area, and tent and RV camping areas with hookups. Fees include \$20 camper hookup, \$15 tent camping, \$5 per vehicle for day use, \$75 annual family pass for day use, and \$35 permit per day to operate a concession stand.-

Water Gate Park has primitive camping areas, picnic facilities, piers and rest rooms with showers. Fees include \$10 camping, \$5 per vehicle for day use, and \$2 boat launch.



Figure 3. Camping and picnic area at Watergate Park on Mill Creek Reservoir, LA.

Artificial Reefs:

No artificial reefs have been placed in Mill Creek Reservoir by LDWF.

SHORELINE DEVELOPMENT

The shoreline of Mill Creek Reservoir is moderately developed. Development along the shoreline consists primarily of homes and camps.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF LAKE

Shoreline Length: Approximately 13.1 miles

Timber Type: Prior to impoundment, the bottom of Mill Creek Reservoir consisted of a mixed pine – deciduous forest with bottomland hardwoods along the creek channels. The majority of the timber on the lower half of the lake was removed prior to inundation. Standing timber remained in most of the upper half of the lake following impoundment. The remaining stumps persist to this day and still pose a hazard to navigation in the lake west of Watergate Park. A blue buoy marks the area where stumps begin.

Average Depth: 10.6 feet at normal pool stage

Maximum Depth: 35 feet

Total Water Volume at Pool Stage: 5,936 acre feet

Natural Seasonal Water Fluctuation: 1-2 feet

EVENTS/ PROBLEMS

Regulation of Commercial Fishing Gear

The Bienville Parish Police Jury and the MCRWCDC have made several attempts over the years to regulate commercial and recreational fishing gear on Mill Creek Reservoir. That authority is vested in the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. Mill Creek Reservoir does not support a commercial fishery and there is minimal commercial fishing activity on the reservoir. However, there is a perception by some that commercial fishing activity has been detrimental to the fisheries resources in Mill Creek Reservoir. The most recent action has been a resolution from the MCRWCDC in 2011 requesting that all traps; hoop nets, slat traps, and all others, not be allowed in Mill Creek Reservoir. There is currently no biological justification to restrict commercial/recreational fishing gear in Mill Creek Reservoir.

Navigation Hazards / Channel Marking

Stumps are a major navigation hazard in the upper end of the lake, west of Watergate Park. The creek channels and boat lanes are not clearly marked. Boaters are advised to use caution on the upper end of Mill Creek Reservoir due to the underwater obstructions and relatively narrow, poorly marked boat lanes. A blue buoy is in place to mark the area where the stumps begin.

Ownership/Responsibility for Dam and Control Structure

There has been some controversy regarding ownership/responsibility for the dam and control structure between LDOTD and the MCRWCDC. Although Mill Creek Reservoir is a public lake, LDOTD has assumed fewer responsibilities for the physical structures of the lake than most other public lakes in the area.

LDOTD conducts routine inspections of the structures, but it was determined by past administrations that responsibility for the operation and maintenance fell to the Commission. LDOTD has records of operating the control structure for the 2007 drawdown, but it is unclear who operated the structure during the previous drawdowns. According to R.S. 38:3087.57 A(4) and B (Appendix I), the Department of Transportation and Development shall cooperate with the Commission and provide advice and assistance upon request from the Commission. The LDOTD and the MCRWCDC shall cooperate to provide any improvements for the control, retention, diversion, or utilization within the district; and cooperate for the repair, improvements, and maintenance of any said improvements or structures. LDOTD has plans to investigate and make repairs to a small leak in the outflow tower during the 2014 drawdown.

MANAGEMENT ISSUES

AQUATIC VEGETATION

Submerged vegetation has been problematic in the shallower areas of Mill Creek Reservoir since impoundment. The most common species are bladderwort (*Utricularia* sp.) and fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*). Other submerged species include: southern naiad (*Najas guadalupensis*), spike rush (*Eleocharis* sp.), muskgrass (*Chara* sp.), coontail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*), filamentous algae, southern watergrass (*Luziola fluitans*), milfoil (*Myriophyllum* sp.), and widgeon grass (*Ruppia maritima*). Native submerged vegetation in the reservoir is generally not observed below the 7 foot contour. Coverage of submerged vegetation typically does not exceed 25% - 30% of total reservoir surface area. However, even low levels of coverage are a nuisance for shoreline property owners. Mill Creek Reservoir drawdowns typically provide several years of submerged vegetation control.

Emergent aquatic vegetation occurs in the shallower areas of the lake approximately to the 4 foot contour. The primary species of emergent aquatic vegetation is water coater shield (*Brasenia schreberi*). This plant will often form a fringe around the lake. Related complaints are common shoreline property residents. Other common emergent species include pondweed (*Potamogeton* sp.), water pennywort (*Hydrocotyle umbellata*), fragrant water lily (*Nymphaea odorata*), water primrose (*Ludwigia octovalvis*), and alligator-weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*).

Floating vegetation has not been problematic in Mill Creek Reservoir. Duckweed (*Lemna* sp.) has been observed. Giant salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*) was discovered in 2013. The giant salvinia was found only in one small area in the upper end of the lake. Two foliar herbicide applications were conducted to eradicate the plant.

Aquatic Vegetation Surveys and Type Maps:

Aquatic vegetation type map surveys were conducted on Mill Creek Reservoir from 1980 – 1984, 1988 – 1995, and 1997 – 2001. In recent years, no formal type maps have been generated from any vegetation assessments conducted.

The latest aquatic vegetation type map conducted in 2001 is contained in **APPENDIX III**. Type map surveys for previous years are contained in Mill Creek Reservoir, Part VI-C (Archives).

Aquatic Vegetation Treatment History:

Biological

No biological control agents have been introduced on Mill Creek Reservoir.

Chemical

The use of herbicides is an important component of the LDWF integrated pest management program. The proper selection and use of herbicides is essential to achieve cost effective benefits and to avoid damage to non-target species. Each product listed has been approved by the Environmental Protection Agency for aquatic use. Aquatic vegetation is treated according to the standard operating procedures for the application of herbicides as adopted by the LDWF Inland Fisheries Section.

In recent years, foliar herbicide applications have been conducted by LDWF to control emergent aquatic vegetation in Mill Creek Reservoir. These spray treatments have provided some relief for shoreline property owners trying to access the lake from their homes or camps. The primary plant targeted by the foliar herbicide applications has been watershield (*Brasenia schreberi*). In 2006, 2,4-D was applied to 30 acres of watershield at the rate of 0.5 gal/acre. In 2013, 2,4-D was applied to 10 acres of watershield, and imazamox (Clearcast) was applied to 16 acres of watershield at that same rate.. Also in 2013, one acre of giant salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*) was treated using a mixture of glyphosate (0.75 gal/acre) and diquat (0.25 gal/acre) with Aqua King Plus (0.25 gal/acre) and Air Cover (12 oz/acre) surfactants. Table 2 lists the acres treated from 2006 through 2013.

Table 2. – Herbicide applications for vegetation control on Mill Creek Reservoir, LA.

Treatment Year	Species of Plants	Acres Treated
2006	Watershield	30
2013	Watershield	26
	Giant Salvinia	1

HISTORY OF REGULATIONS

Recreational

Statewide regulations have been in effect for all game fish species since impoundment.

The recreational fishing regulations for 2014 may be viewed at the link below:

<http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/regulations>

Commercial

Mill Creek Reservoir supports a minimal commercial fishery, consisting primarily of catfishes. There is a minimal amount of commercial activity on the lake. Statewide regulations have been in effect for commercial species since impoundment.

The 2014 statewide commercial fishing regulations for Louisiana may be viewed at: <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/regulations>

DRAWDOWN HISTORY

Mill Creek Reservoir has been drawn down only four times since impoundment in 1971. Dates, elevation below pool, purpose of these drawdowns, results of the drawdown, and any associated issues are reported in Table 3.

Table 3. Drawdown history of Mill Creek Reservoir, LA, from 1980 to 2013.

Date Opened	Date Closed	Depth Below Pool	Purpose	Results	Issues
11/25/1980 (approx.)	1/1/1981 (approx.)	Unknown	Shoreline maintenance	Unknown	None known
Post Labor Day 1986	January 1987	6 Feet	Shoreline maintenance and aquatic vegetation control	Good	None known
9/8/1999	1/14/2000	5 Feet	Shoreline maintenance, erosion control, stump clearing	Unknown	No water for dry hydrant
9/24/2007	1/15/2008	7 Feet	Aquatic vegetation control and shoreline improvements	Good	None known

A fall / winter drawdown of Mill Creek Reservoir to 7 feet below pool stage is planned to begin after Labor Day 2014 at the request of the MCRWCDC for the primary purpose of shoreline maintenance with vegetation control as a secondary benefit. The plan calls for the gates to be opened as close as possible to September 8, 2014 and closed no later than January 31, 2015.

FISH KILLS/ DISEASE HISTORY, LMBV

No fish kills have occurred on Mill Creek Reservoir where Largemouth Bass Virus (LMBV) is suspected to be a factor.

Sampling for Largemouth Bass Virus has not been conducted on Mill Creek Reservoir by LDWF.

CONTAMINANTS / POLLUTION

No fish consumption advisories have been issued for Mill Creek Reservoir.

BIOLOGICAL

Fish Sampling History:

Descriptions of LDWF fish sampling from 1981 to 2016 are listed in Table 4.

Table 4. Historical and scheduled fish sampling on Mill Creek Reservoir, LA.

YEAR	GEAR
1981	2 – One Acre Rotenone Sets
1985	2 – One Acre Rotenone Sets
1986	2 – One Acre Rotenone Sets
1996	Electrofishing 3 – 15 minute samples – Fall 15 minute Electrofishing Forage Sample – Fall
2003	Electrofishing 3 – 15 minute samples – Fall
2005	Electrofishing 4 – 15 minute samples – Fall 15 minute Electrofishing Forage Sample – Fall
2008	Electrofishing 4 – 15 minute samples – Fall 15 minute Electrofishing Forage Sample – Fall
2010	4 - 300' Gill Net Sets – 2.5" Bar 4 - 300' Gill Net Sets – 3" Bar 4 - 300' Gill Net Sets – 3.5" Bar 4 - 300' Gill Net Sets – 4" Bar
2014	5-baited slat traps-48 hours soak-summer 5-baited slat traps-96 hours soak-summer 2-baited lead net samples-48 hours soak-summer
2015	Electrofishing 4-15 minute samples – Spring Electrofishing 4-15 minute samples – Fall Electrofishing 4-225 second forage samples – Fall Lead Nets- 3 sample stations – Fall/Winter
2016	No planned sampling

Lake Records:

The Louisiana Outdoor Writers Association (LOWA) is the official curator of fish records for the State of Louisiana. There are no records kept specifically for Mill Creek Reservoir. For more information on Louisiana state records, visit:

[LA Fish Records](#)

Stocking History:

Florida largemouth bass stocking by LDWF began in 2003 on Mill Creek Reservoir in an effort to provide anglers a chance to catch a fish of greater than average size. The stocking history from 1971 to June 2014 is listed in Table 5.

Table 5. The stocking history of Mill Creek Reservoir, LA from 1971 to June 2014.

Date	Number / Species stocked
1971	48,292 Bluegill fingerlings 69,960 Redear fingerlings Largemouth bass fingerlings – unknown number Black crappie fingerlings – unknown number
1985	6,500 Blue catfish fingerlings
1995	5,200 Channel catfish fingerlings
1998	10,584 Channel catfish fingerlings
1999	7,936 Channel catfish fingerlings
2000	14,400 Channel catfish fingerlings
2002	14,400 Channel catfish fingerlings
2003	5,022 Florida largemouth bass fingerlings 10,036 Channel catfish fingerlings
2004	4,003 Florida largemouth bass fingerlings 14,595 Channel catfish fingerlings
2005	6,250 Florida largemouth bass fingerlings 14,830 Channel catfish fingerlings
2006	13,010 Channel catfish fingerlings
2007	14,500 Channel catfish fingerlings
2008	6,350 Florida largemouth bass fingerlings
2009	7,660 Florida largemouth bass fingerlings 14,427 Channel catfish fingerlings
2010	17,260 Florida largemouth bass fingerlings
2011	3,798 Florida largemouth bass fingerlings 14,852 Channel catfish fingerlings

Species Profile:

Table 6. List of indigenous freshwater fishes found in Mill Creek Reservoir through LDWF standardized sampling efforts and observations.

Gar Family, LEPISTOSTEIDAE

Spotted gar, *Lepisosteus oculatus* (Winchell)

Bowfin Family, AMIIDAE

Bowfin, *Amia calva* Linnaeus

Herring Family, CLUPEIDAE

Gizzard shad, *Dorosoma cepedianum* (Lesueur)

Threadfin shad, *Dorosoma petenense* (Günther)

Minnow Family, CYPRINIDAE

Golden shiner, *Notemigonus crysoleucas* (Mitchill)

Sucker Family, CATOSTOMIDAE

- Lake chubsucker, *Erimyzon sucetta* (Lacépède)
- Spotted sucker, *Minytrema melanops* (Rafinesque)

Freshwater Catfish Family, ICTALURIDAE

- Yellow bullhead, *Ameiurus natalis* (Lesueur)
- Brown bullhead, *Ameiurus nebulosus* (Lesueur)
- Blue catfish, *Ictalurus furcatus* (Lesueur)
- Channel catfish, *Ictalurus punctatus* (Rafinesque)
- Tadpole madtom, *Noturus gyrinus* (Mitchill)
- Flathead catfish, *Pylodictis olivaris* (Rafinesque)

Pike Family, ESOCIDAE

- Grass pickerel, *Esox americanus vermiculatus* Lesueur
- Chain pickerel, *Esox niger* Lesueur

Pirate Perch Family, APHREDODERIDAE

- Pirate perch, *Aphredoderus sayanus* (Gilliams)

Killifish Family, CYPRINODONTIDAE

- Blackspotted topminnow, *Fundulus olivaceus* (Storer)

Livebearer Family, POECILIIDAE

- Western mosquitofish, *Gambusia affinis* (Baird and Girard)

Silverside Family, ATHERINIDAE

- Brook silverside, *Labidesthes sicculus* (Cope)

Sunfish Family, CENTRARCHIDAE

- Warmouth, *Lepomis gulosus* (Cuvier)
- Bluegill, *Lepomis macrochirus* (Rafinesque)
- Dollar sunfish, *Lepomis marginatus* (Holbrook)
- Longear sunfish, *Lepomis megalotis* (Rafinesque)
- Redear sunfish, *Lepomis microlophus* (Günther)
- Redspotted sunfish, *Lepomis miniatus* Jordan
- Spotted bass, *Micropterus punctulatus* (Rafinesque)
- Florida largemouth bass, *Micropterus floridanus* Kassler et al.
- Northern largemouth bass, *Micropterus salmoides salmoides* (Lacépède)
- Black crappie, *Pomoxis nigromaculatus* (Lesueur)

Largemouth Bass Genetics:

Genetic analysis of the largemouth bass population on Mill Creek Reservoir was conducted in 1999, 2005, and 2008. The results are listed in Table 7. It is interesting to note that Florida bass were present in the lake prior to the first recorded stocking by LDWF in 2003. Sample size for all years is relatively low which may account for the changes in the data during the period sampled. The most recent sample taken in 2008 indicates a Florida influence of 9%.

Table 7. – The genetic analysis of largemouth bass from Mill Creek Reservoir, LA.

Year	Number	Northern %	Florida %	Hybrid %
1999	16	81	6	13
2005	18	67	5	28
2008	35	91	0	9

Threatened/Endangered/Exotic Species:

No threatened or endangered fish species are known to inhabit Mill Creek Reservoir.

HYDROLOGICAL CHANGES

There have been no significant hydrological changes on Mill Creek Reservoir since impoundment in 1971.

WATER USE

Hunting

Waterfowl hunting is locally popular on Mill Creek Reservoir.

Skiing

YES

Swimming

YES

Fishing

YES

Boating

YES

APPENDIX I

[\(Return to Authorization\)](#)

Mill Creek Recreation and Water Conservation District - Enabling Legislation

RS 38:3087.51 – 3087.67

PART XVIII. MILL CREEK RECREATION AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

§3087.51. Creation

There is hereby created a recreation and water conservation district to be known as the "Mill Creek Recreation and Water Conservation District".

Acts 1995, No. 443, §2, eff. June 17, 1995.

§3087.52. Location

The district shall be comprised of the territory within Voting District Seven of Bienville Parish as such district was established on June 17, 1995.

Acts 1995, No. 443, §2, eff. June 17, 1995.

§3087.53. District as political subdivision and body corporate; purpose and powers

A. The district so created shall be a political subdivision of the state of Louisiana which shall have for its purpose the preservation, promotion, and development of the wealth and natural resources of the district by the conservation of the soil and water of Mill Creek for agricultural, recreational, commercial, and sanitary purposes and by the regulation of aquatic plant growth.

B. It shall constitute a body corporate in law with all powers, rights, privileges, and immunities of a corporation. It shall have the power to sue and be sued, to buy and sell, to levy taxes, to negotiate and execute contracts, and to incur debts and issue negotiable bonds in payment thereof under and in accordance with existing law. It shall have the authority to acquire by purchase, donation, or otherwise every type and specie of property, including servitudes and rights of use necessary to its purpose, and to lease, build, operate, and maintain any works or machinery designed to accomplish the purposes of the district.

C. It shall have complete control over the supply of fresh water of Mill Creek which shall be administered for the benefit of the persons residing or owning property within the district, and if it should be for the benefit of the district it shall have the authority to sell

such water for irrigation, municipal, and industrial uses both within and outside the district. However, the district shall have no authority to regulate or control any use by any municipality, district, or other person of such water supply which use was being made by such municipality, district, or other person on June 17, 1995, including no authority to charge or collect any fee or charge therefor.

D. The district shall be deemed to be designed to carry out an essential governmental function, and all of the property of the district shall be exempt from state and local sales and use taxation. It shall have the authority to cooperate and contract with the government of the United States or any department or agency thereof and to accept grants and donations of property and money therefrom. It shall have the authority to cooperate with the state of Louisiana or any political subdivision, department, agency, or corporation of the state for the management of the waters of Mill Creek and the construction, operation, and maintenance of facilities designed to accomplish the purpose for which the district is created on any basis including the matching of funds and by participating in projects authorized by any federal or state law as it shall see fit.

Acts 1995, No. 443, §2, eff. June 17, 1995.

§3087.54. Board of commissioners, appointment; tenure; vacancies; compensation

A. The district shall be governed and controlled by a board of five commissioners, each of whom shall be a qualified elector of the state of Louisiana, owning property within the district. Each of the five commissioners shall reside in Bienville Parish.

B. The initial members of the board of commissioners shall be appointed by the Bienville Parish Police Jury. The initial members of the board shall serve as follows: two commissioners shall serve a two-year term and three commissioners shall serve a four-year term. Commissioners shall draw lots for their initial terms at the first commission meeting. Thereafter, all commissioners shall serve four-year terms. After the initial appointments, upon expiration of a term of a member of the board of commissioners, the police jury shall appoint a successor from a list of two names submitted by the board of commissioners. A commissioner may not serve more than two consecutive terms of any length, even if one term is shorter than four years. Any vacancy in the office of commissioner due to death, resignation, or any other cause, other than expiration of a term of office, shall be filled by the president of the board with majority approval of the board for the remainder of the unexpired term.

C. Members of the board of commissioners shall receive no compensation for their services.

Acts 1995, No. 443, §2, eff. June 17, 1995.

§3087.55. Oath

Before entering upon his official duties each member of the board of commissioners shall take the oath of office provided by Article X, Section 30 of the Constitution of Louisiana before an officer authorized by law to administer oaths.

Acts 1995, No. 443, §2, eff. June 17, 1995.

§3087.56. Election of officers

Immediately after the members of the board of commissioners have been appointed, or as soon as thereafter is practicable, they shall meet and organize by electing from their number a president, vice president, and secretary who shall perform the duties normally required of such officers.

Acts 1995, No. 443, §2, eff. June 17, 1995.

§3087.57. Powers of the board

A. In order to accomplish the purposes for which the district is created, the board of commissioners may:

(1) Purchase, acquire by donation, hold, sell, and convey immovable and movable property and execute such contracts as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to properly carry out the purposes for which it is created.

(2) Acquire servitudes and rights of use by purchase, by donation, and by assignment for the district or otherwise.

(3) Assist in conserving soil and water and in developing the water resources of the district, provided nothing shall be done to interfere with districts or municipalities previously organized under Louisiana law.

(4) Cooperate with the state Department of Transportation and Development and other state agencies in the maintenance or improvement and the construction of any works or improvements for the control, retention, diversion, or utilization of water; retard runoff of water and soil erosion; construct any ditch, channel improvement, dike, dam, or levee, and repair, improve, and maintain any of said improvements or structures.

(5) Manage and control the water level and growth of aquatic plants in the creek.

(6) Employ and hire secretarial, clerical, and other such personnel as may be necessary in the operation of the business of the district and fix their compensation; employ engineers, attorneys, and other professional personnel as necessary and fix their compensation.

(7) Levy taxes, issue bonds, and incur indebtedness within the limitations prescribed by the constitution and laws of Louisiana, and in the manner prescribed thereby.

(8) Cooperate and contract with persons, firms, associations, partnerships, private corporations, cities of this state, or other public corporations, and with any other local, state, and governmental agencies for the sale or use of any waters impounded by the district.

(9) Grant franchises to telephone, telegraph, cable, and electric power companies and grant franchises for the purposes of laying gas, sewer, electricity, or other utilities to supply the inhabitants or any person or corporation with gas, water, sewerage, and electricity, when such construction is within the district. Nothing contained in this Part shall affect the vested rights of any corporation which pursuant to R.S. 45:781(A), has constructed, and maintains and operates telegraph, telephone, and other lines for the transmission of intelligence prior to June 17, 1995.

(10) Appoint, hire, designate, and empower wardens, rangers, patrols, and such other personnel as may be deemed necessary by the commission for the enforcement of such regulations as may be promulgated and adopted by said commission.

(11) Do and perform any and all things necessary or incidental to the fulfillment of the purposes for which the district is created.

B. The Mill Creek Recreation and Water Conservation District shall have, with respect to the improvements and maintenance of the district, the advice of the Department of Transportation and Development, and it shall request from time to time the assistance of the department to make such surveys, inspections, and investigations, render such reports, estimates, and recommendations, and furnish such plans and specifications as the board of commissioners of said district may request.

C. The district is hereby authorized to incur debt for any one or more of its lawful purposes, to issue in its name negotiable bonds or certificates of indebtedness evidencing such debt, and to provide for the security and payment thereof as follows:

(1) To issue certificates of indebtedness maturing within one year from date of issuance to evidence money borrowed in anticipation of current revenues for the administration, operation, construction, and maintenance costs and expenses of the district, which certificates shall be payable in principal and interest from any available income, revenues, fees, or taxes pledged to their payment by the district.

(2) To issue bonds substantially in the manner set forth in Article VI of the Constitution of Louisiana, and other authority supplemental thereto, particularly Part III of Chapter 4 of Subtitle II of Title 39 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950. Such bonds shall be payable from an ad valorem tax on all taxable property in the district sufficient to pay such bonds in principal and interest, when approved by vote of a majority in number of

the qualified electors voting on the proposition at an election held for that purpose. Such bonds shall be issued in the manner provided by the law pursuant to which they are being issued and the maximum interest rate for the bonds shall be that prescribed by such law. The bonds shall be issued in such amount or amounts as the board of commissioners shall determine. However, the principal amount of all such bonds outstanding as of the date of the issuance of any new bonds shall never exceed ten percent of the assessed valuation of the taxable property within the district, to be ascertained by the last assessment roll of record in Bienville Parish.

(3) The district shall have additional authority to levy taxes under the provisions of Article VI, Section 32 of the Constitution of Louisiana, for the purpose of improving, operating, and maintaining its facilities, providing any such tax shall first be approved at an election held for said purpose in accordance with the Louisiana Election Code.

(4) The copy of any resolution levying a tax, certified by the secretary of the board of commissioners of said district, shall be transmitted to the tax assessor of Bienville Parish on or before the first of the year in which the tax is to be assessed and collected, and it shall be the duty of the assessor to assess the tax and extend the same upon the tax rolls of the parish. The tax shall be collected by the sheriff and ex officio tax collector of Bienville Parish in the same manner as taxes levied by the parish. Taxes assessed shall constitute the same liens upon the property assessed, shall bear the same penalties, and collection thereof shall be enforced in the same manner and at the same time as parish taxes.

Acts 1995, No. 443, §2, eff. June 17, 1995.

§3087.58. Parcel fee

A.(1) The Mill Creek Recreation and Water Conservation District may levy and collect a parcel fee within its boundaries which shall not exceed one hundred dollars per parcel per year, which parcel fee shall be imposed by resolution or ordinance of the board of commissioners of the district only after the question of the imposition of the parcel fee and the purpose, rate, and duration of such fee has been approved by a majority of the qualified electors of the district voting at an election held therein. The proceeds from the levy of said parcel fee shall be expended for costs of operation of the district, including management and control of water levels and aquatic plant growth within the district and protection and preservation of the works, improvements, and properties owned or controlled by the district, prescribing the manner of their use by public corporations and persons, and preserving order within and adjacent thereto. Any parcel fee imposed pursuant to this Section shall be levied and collected and be due and owing annually. Such fee may be carried on the tax rolls for Bienville Parish and collected at the same time as parish ad valorem taxes.

(2) If any parcel fee is not paid when due, the district shall proceed against the parcel for collection of the amount of the fee unpaid and delinquent, any collection costs incurred

by the district plus interest at a rate not exceeding twelve percent on the unpaid amount of the parcel fee, and in the event legal proceedings are necessary to effect collection, court costs, and reasonable attorney fees. However, attorney fees shall be payable by the parcel owner only if demand by the board of commissioners has been made on said owner by certified mail, and such parcel owner has failed to pay the amount due within ten days after such demand.

(3) A judgment obtained for nonpayment of a parcel fee, upon being recorded in the mortgage records of Bienville Parish, shall prime all other liens except those for taxes and prior recorded local or special assessments. If there are one or more property mortgages on such parcel and the mortgage holder or holders have notified the tax collector in the parish of such recorded mortgage in accordance with the requirements of R.S. 47:2180.1, the district, prior to proceeding against such parcel for failure to pay a parcel fee, shall give notice to each mortgagee of the amount of the parcel fee due and owing on such parcel and that such fee must be paid within twenty days after mailing the notice or proceedings will be commenced against the parcel. The notice shall be sent to each such mortgage holder by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by personal or domiciliary service on such mortgage holder.

B.(1) The district may incur debt and issue bonds payable from an irrevocable pledge and dedication of all or a portion of the proceeds of the parcel fee, provided that the question of funding said proceeds into bonds shall have been approved by a majority vote of the qualified electors of the district voting at an election held therein and the State Bond Commission has approved the issuance of the bonds. The question or proposition with respect to the funding of the proceeds of the parcel fee may be submitted at a separate election held for that purpose. The maturities of the bonds shall be so arranged that the total amount of principal, and interest falling due in such year on all bonds theretofore issued payable from such parcel fee, shall not exceed eighty percent of the estimated proceeds to be received from the levy of such parcel fee in the calendar year in which the bonds are issued.

(2) The bonds may be sold at public or private sale and shall be issued pursuant to the provisions of a resolution adopted by the board of commissioners of the district, provided the bonds shall mature over a period not to exceed the period for which the parcel fee, the proceeds of which are to be used to pay principal and interest on the bonds, is authorized. The bonds and the income therefrom shall be exempt from taxation by the state and by any parish, municipality, or political subdivision thereof.

C. The district may incur debt and issue certificates of indebtedness pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 33:2921 through 2925, subject to the approval of the State Bond Commission.

D. A "parcel" as used in this Section shall mean one or more lots, subdivided portions of ground, or individual tracts identified by an individual assessment number on the assessment rolls of Bienville Parish. A partial owner of a parcel shall be responsible for

that proportion of the parcel fee equal to the proportion of the value of the entire parcel assigned to the partial owner on the assessment roll.

E. The district may create different classes of real estate and present to the voters a proposition to levy or impose different parcel fees for each class.

Acts 1995, No. 443, §2, eff. June 17, 1995.

§3087.59. Rules and regulations

In order to accomplish the purposes of the district to manage and control water levels and the growth of aquatic plants and to protect the works, improvements, and property of the district, both immovable and movable, to secure the best results from the construction, operation, and maintenance thereof, and to prevent damage to the district by misuse of any works, improvements, or properties or by the pollution by solid or liquid substance or misuse of the waters of the district or any watercourse therein, the board of commissioners may make and enforce such rules and regulations as it shall deem necessary and advisable:

- (1) To manage and control the water level and the growth of aquatic plants in the creek.
- (2) To protect and preserve the works, improvements, and properties owned or controlled by the district, prescribe the manner of their use by public corporations and persons, and preserve order within and adjacent thereto.
- (3) To prescribe the manner of building bridges, piers, boathouses, seawalls, roads, and fences, including fences for the control of livestock or other works in, along, or across any channel or extending into the creek.
- (4) To prescribe the manner in which natural or artificial drains, ditches, sewers, pipelines, or other works shall be adjusted to or connected with the works of the district or any watercourse therein and the manner in which the watercourses of the district may be used for sewer outlets for disposal of waste.
- (5) To prescribe the permissible uses of the water supply provided by the creek and to prevent the pollution or unnecessary waste of such water supply.
- (6) To prescribe or regulate the discharge into sewers of the district of any liquid or solid waste deemed detrimental to the works and improvements of the district.
- (7) To establish rules and regulations and cause them to be enforced with regard to activities engaged in upon Mill Creek which are not regulated by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

Acts 1995, No. 443, §2, eff. June 17, 1995.

§3087.60. Construction which would impede flow of water in creek prohibited; pollution defined and prohibited; penalties fixed for violations

A.(1) No person or public corporation shall erect within the drainage area of the district any dam or reservoir upon any stream or watercourse which will affect the creek until a copy of the plans thereof has been filed with the board of commissioners and approved.

(2) Whoever violates this Subsection shall be fined not less than five hundred dollars nor more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned for not more than sixty days, or both.

B.(1) No person shall knowingly and willfully empty or drain or permit to be drained from any pump, reservoir, well, or oil field, into any stream or drain constituting the watershed of the creek, or from any stream within said district into said creek any oil, salt water, or other noxious, toxic, hazardous, or poisonous gas, liquid, or substance which would render the water unfit for irrigation purposes or for human consumption through "water districts" or would destroy aquatic and fish life in the creek.

(2) Each and every day that oil, salt water, or any other substance described in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection is permitted to flow into natural streams or drains which constitute the watershed of the creek shall constitute a separate and distinct offense.

(3) Whoever violates this Subsection shall be fined not less than one hundred dollars nor more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned for not more than three months, or both.

C.(1) No person shall:

(a) Obstruct drainage channels which compose any drain or stream flowing into the creek by bridging them except in accordance with plans, specifications, and instructions prescribed by the board of commissioners of the district.

(b) Construct dams, locks, or gates in drainage channels of the watershed of the creek or into the creek itself without permission of the commission.

(c) Anchor rafts, crafts, fish traps, fish cars, and other obstacles in the channel of any stream, drain, or natural flow of the feeder streams of the watershed of the creek or the creek itself.

(d) Float timber in the watershed of the creek.

(2) Whoever violates this Subsection shall be fined not less than five hundred dollars nor more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned for not more than sixty days, or both.

D.(1) No proprietor, owner, lessee, or possessor of land abutting upon the creek or upon any public road paralleling the water line or contiguous to the creek shall in any manner

close or place any obstruction in any drain or ditch, whether on private property or on the public road or levee adjacent to the road, which will in any manner interfere with the effective, thorough, and continuous drainage into the creek.

(2) Whoever violates this Subsection shall be fined not less than five hundred dollars nor more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned for not more than sixty days, or both.

Acts 1995, No. 443, §2, eff. June 17, 1995.

§3087.61. Supervision by Department of Transportation and Development

All of the powers and duties relative to construction and letting of contracts for construction required to be advertised by R.S. 38:2211 and 2212 conferred upon the district shall be subject to and exercised under the supervisory control of the Department of Transportation and Development of the state of Louisiana, which department shall furnish to the district such engineering services as it shall require and may cooperate with the district in the construction of any work or facility considered necessary by the district and said department to the purposes of the district.

Acts 1995, No. 443, §2, eff. June 17, 1995.

§3087.62. Contracts let by board

Any and all contracts of the district shall be let by the board of commissioners under the provisions of the Public Bid Law, R.S. 38:2181 et seq.

Acts 1995, No. 443, §2, eff. June 17, 1995.

§3087.63. Mineral rights

Whenever it shall become necessary for the district or the Department of Transportation and Development to acquire full ownership of any land for the purpose of constructing any work or facility within the district, the owner thereof in his own behalf or in behalf of his assigns in the event of a prior assignment may retain the mineral rights to such property together with the right to grant mineral leases and servitudes thereon. No form of prescription shall divest such owner or his assigns of these rights so long as the district or a department or agency of the state retains the ownership of the property, but should ownership pass into private hands, the prescription of nonuse provided by R.S. 31:27 shall apply as in the usual case.

Acts 1995, No. 443, §2, eff. June 17, 1995.

§3087.64. Tax exemption; mineral leases unabridged

Should the district or the Department of Transportation and Development acquire a servitude, right of use, or title in full ownership to immovable property or any other property, such property shall not be subject to any ad valorem tax or tax of any nature by the state of Louisiana or any political subdivision thereof so long as such property is used for the purpose of the district. The provisions of this Part shall in no way abridge the right of any individual, person, firm, or corporation from whom a servitude or right of use may have been acquired to lease the land subject thereto for the production of oil, gas, or other minerals and to produce or cause to be produced oil, gas, or other minerals from such property so long as said leases are subject to the terms and conditions of the servitude executed in favor of the commission.

Acts 1995, No. 443, §2, eff. June 17, 1995.

§3087.65. Playgrounds, parks, and other facilities

The board of commissioners shall have the power to cause to be created and constructed playgrounds, picnic grounds, grounds for recreation, parks, and any and all other facilities to accommodate the public and to provide adequate access to the creek, as may within the opinion of the board become necessary.

Acts 1995, No. 443, §2, eff. June 17, 1995.

§3087.66. Regulation of commercial establishments

A. The board of commissioners shall have authority:

(1) To establish and cause to be enforced rules and regulations pertaining to all commercial establishments which may be constructed for the purpose of commercializing and making commercial use of the creek or its facilities.

(2) To license and permit such establishments and to levy and collect a fee, to be fixed by the commission, for the privilege of making commercial use of the facilities of the creek.

B. The rules and regulations established and promulgated by the board of commissioners pursuant to this Section shall provide penalties for any commercial establishment operating without a permit or license.

Acts 1995, No. 443, §2, eff. June 17, 1995.

§3087.67. Audit

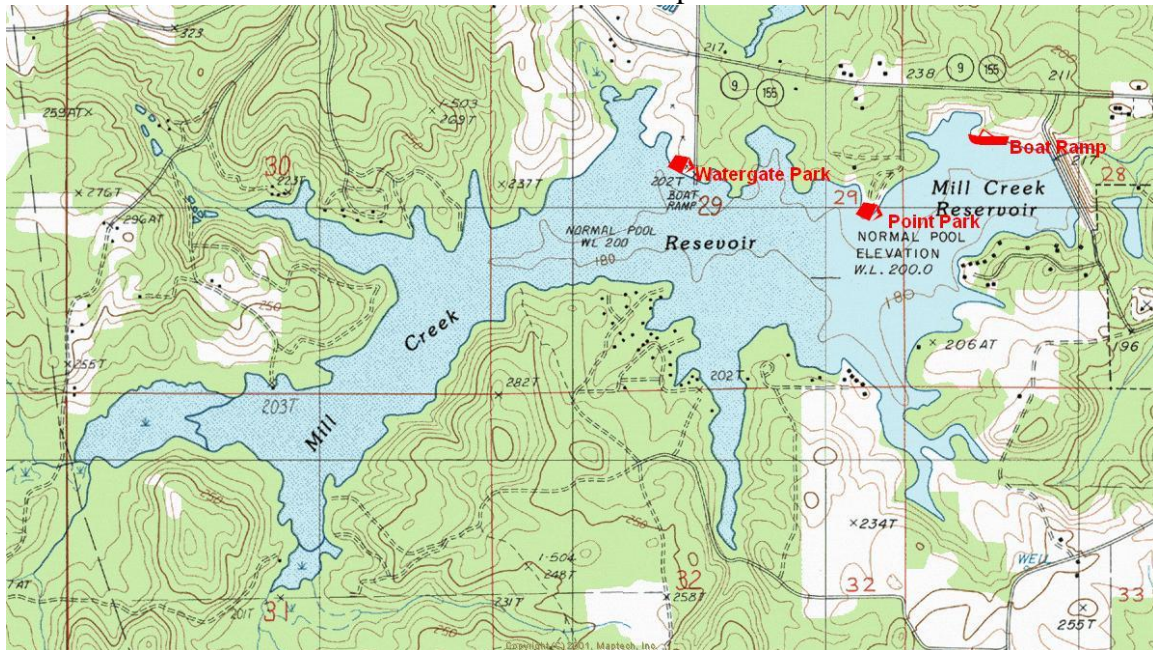
The district shall be audited pursuant to R.S. 24:513.

Acts 1995, No. 443, §2, eff. June 17, 1995.

APPENDIX II

[\(return to Boat Ramps\)](#)

Mill Creek Reservoir Boat Ramp and Park Areas



APPENDIX III

[\(Return to Aquatic vegetation\)](#)

Mill Creek Reservoir – Aquatic Vegetation Type Map and Narrative – 2001

Mill Creek Reservoir 2001

Mill Creek Reservoir was surveyed for the presence of aquatic vegetation on July 10, 2001. At the time of the survey the lake was at pool stage. The water color was clear.

The submersed plants noted were: bladderwort (*Utricularia* sp.), southern naiad (*Najas guadalupensis*), muskgrass (*Chara* sp.), filamentous algae, fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*), coontail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*), and spikerush (*Eleocharis* sp.)

The emergent plants noted were: smartweed (*Polygonum* sp.), watershield (*Brasenia schreberi*), water hyssop (*Bacopa* sp.), fragrant water lily (*Nymphaea odorata*), water primrose (*Ludwigia* sp.), and bulrush (*Scirpus* sp.).

The estimated percent coverage of submersed plants was 10%.

Written by Melvin Bagwell

Edited and corrected by James Seales (May 2014)

Mill Creek Reservoir - 2001 Aquatic Vegetation Type Map

